

Flexible Pathways Bulletin

August 2014

Flexible Pathways Initiative S.130/Act 77

Since the 2013 passage of Flexible Pathways bill (S.130/Act 77), Vermont's Dual Enrollment program has expanded to include up to two college courses for each eligible VT high school student. The Agency of Education (AOE) has oversight of the Dual Enrollment program, and will work with partner institutions of higher education to manage the delivery to students. Dual enrollment courses provided for in this legislation can be offered on a college campus, and on site at a participating high school.

Who is eligible?

- High school juniors and seniors who are residents of Vermont, and who attend a publically funded school including a Vermont Career Technical Education Center are eligible for a total of two dual enrollment courses
- Students who attend an independent high school and are public funded by their hometowns
- State of Vermont Home Student students
- Students who are assigned to a public school through the High School Completion Program

★ Students must get approval for their participation in dual enrollment courses from their high school principal or designee.

Limitations

- Summer Semester is considered part of the next school year
- Dual Enrollment vouchers will be granted on a semester by semester basis
- Unused student vouchers will be voided at the end of each semester; students will need to re-apply for unused vouchers
- Remedial coursework offered by a college is not eligible for dual enrollment funding because these courses do not apply towards college graduation requirements. High schools should develop programming independent of the dual enrollment program that supports students in need of remedial or developmental coursework to achieve college readiness.

School Implementation Process

High Schools have been asked to do the following:

1. Identify a Dual Enrollment Contact (Principal or Designee) to facilitate communication between the AOE and College Partners.
2. **Return the Dual Enrollment Participation Form to rose.wheeler@state.vt.us at the Vermont Agency of Education, identifying the contact(s).** You may include multiple designees/contacts as determined by the number of school counselors per secondary school and the division of caseload responsibilities. CTE Directors will be

included on all communication as contacts. **Participation forms must be returned ASAP.**

3. The high school should establish communications with students & families.

- ★ High school students may apply for Dual Enrollment vouchers at www.vtdualenrollment.org. When a student applies for a voucher, an email will be sent to the contact name(s) designated on the “Participation Form” from the high school notifying them that the student has applied for a voucher.

Funding

Nearly 100% of the funding for the Dual Enrollment Program is supported by the State General Fund, with a small portion coming from the federal CTE fund for the 2014-2015 school year.

- ★ Beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, local school district budgets will cover 50% of the funding, with the remaining 50% funded by the State General Fund.

Reminder:

Effective by November 30, 2015 any student who wants to participate in a dual enrollment course must have it included in their Personalized Learning Plan (PLP).

- ★ Students taking dual enrollment course(s) in the summer of 2015 will need a PLP in place prior to applying for a voucher.
- ★ Early College (EC) students need to have their PLPs in place for spring 2015 in order to apply to early college programs. EC students are also required to take the standardized tests that the state requires their senior year.

Personalized Learning Plan (PLP):

Documentation of an evolving plan developed on behalf of a student in an ongoing process involving a secondary student, a representative of the school, and, if the student is a minor, the student’s parents or legal guardian. The plan must be updated at least annually, with the first update occurring by November 30, and with the student and the student’s parent or guardian being solely responsible for developing a plan for a home study student. The plan shall be developmentally appropriate, and shall reflect the student’s emerging abilities, aptitude, and disposition. The plan shall define the scope and rigor of academic and experiential opportunities necessary for a secondary student to complete secondary school successfully, attain postsecondary readiness, and be prepared to engage actively in civic life.



Questions regarding the Dual Enrollment Program can be directed to Toni Marra at toni.marra@state.vt.us or Frank Gerdeman at frank.gerdeman@state.vt.us

Stipends now available...

Stipends are now available for books, fees and travel for dual enrollment students. Eligible high school students can receive \$150 to cover incidental costs of college-level courses.

Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) will administer a new program that provides \$50,000 this year to help low-income high school students cover the costs of books, fees and travel associated with dual enrollment. Students who are eligible for free and reduced-price lunch and who need additional financial assistance to cover the costs of books, fees and/or travel will be automatically considered for an annual stipend of \$150 to assist with these costs. More information will be sent to high schools in the next few weeks.

Dual Enrollment Advisory Board Members

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If you are interested in becoming an Advisory Board Member, please contact Toni Marra at toni.marra@state.vt.us or 802-479-1302.

Dual Enrollment Frequently Asked Questions can be accessed at the following link:

http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-Memo_2013_08_Dual_Enrollment_Bulletin.pdf

Flexible Pathways Bulletins are on line and can be found at the link below:

<http://education.vermont.gov/flexible-pathways/dual-enrollment/bulletin>